THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A compound of a formula I:
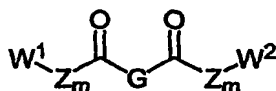
$$W^1 \underset{Z_m}{\overset{O}{\underset{\displaystyle}{\parallel}}} G \underset{Z_m}{\overset{O}{\underset{\displaystyle}{\parallel}}} W^2$$

I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein
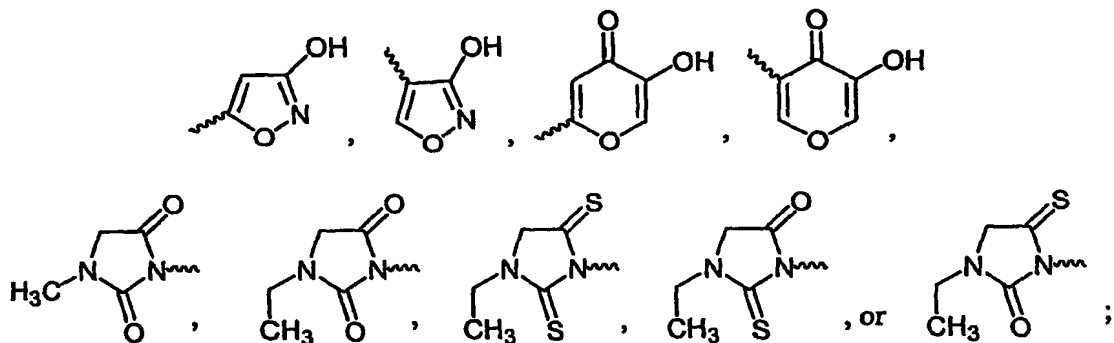
(a)   each occurrence of Z is independently CH_2, $CH=CH$, or phenyl, wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9, but when Z is phenyl then its associated m is 1;

(b)   G is $(CH_2)_x$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2$, $CH=CH$, CH_2-phenyl-CH_2, or phenyl, wherein x is 2, 3, or 4;

(c) W^1 and W^2 are independently L, V, $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-C(R^3)(R^4)-(CH_2)_n-Y$, or $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-V$, wherein c is 1 or 2 and n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

(d) R^1 and R^2 are independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or when W^1 or W^2 is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-C(R^3)(R^4)-Y$, then R^1 and R^2 can both be H, or R^1 and R^2 and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloakyl group;

(e) R^3 and R^4 are independently H, OH, CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, Cl, Br, CN, NO_2, or CF_3, with the proviso that when R^1 and R^2 are both H, then one of R^3 or R^4 is not H or R^3 and R^4 and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloakyl group;;

(f)   L is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_n-Y$;

(g)   V is
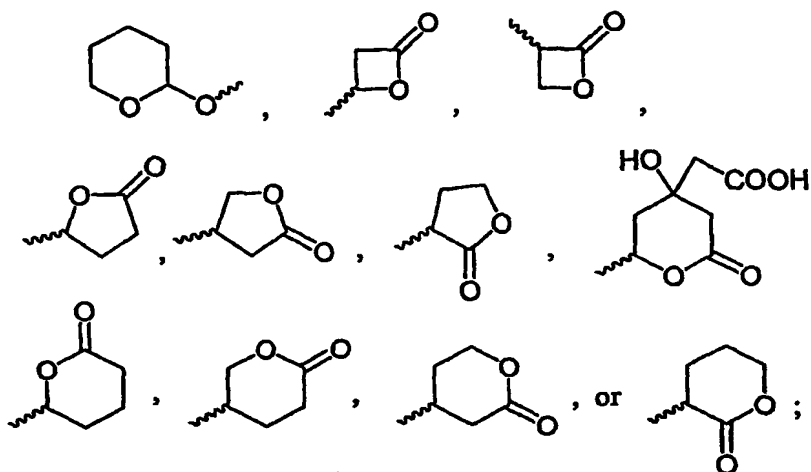
(h)   Y is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^5$, SO_3H,
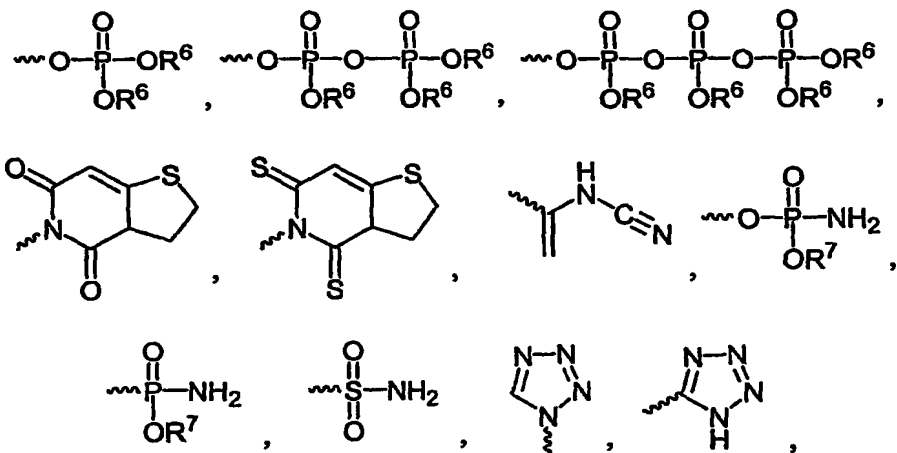
where

(I) R^5 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or
        benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more
        halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^6 is independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii)   each occurrence of R^7 is independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl; and

provided that:

(i)   if G is $(CH_2)x$, x is 4, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 4, and W^1 is $-CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(ii)   if G is CH_2-phenyl-CH_2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is $-C(CH_3)_2CH(CO_2CH_2CH_3)_2$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(iii)   if G is CH_2-phenyl-CH_2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2(CO_2CH_2CH_3)$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(iv)   if G is CH_2-phenyl-CH_2, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 1, and W^1 is $-COCH_2C(CH_3)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(v)   if G is $(CH_2)_x$, x is 4, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is $-C(\text{phenyl})_2CH_2CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(vi)   if G is CH=CH, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 1, and W^1 is $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2(CO_2H)$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1; and

(vii)   if G is phenyl, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 1, and W^1 is $-C(\text{phenyl})_2CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1.

2.   The compound of claim 1, wherein:

(a) W^1 and W^2 are independently L, V, or $C(R^1)(R^2)$–$(CH_2)_c$–V where c is 1 or 2; and

(b) R^1 or R^2 are independently $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl.

3.   The compound of claim 1, wherein W^1 is L.

4.   The compound of claim 1, wherein W^1 is V.

5.   The compound of claim 1, wherein W^1 is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-C(R^3)(R^4)-(CH_2)_n-Y$.

6.   The compound of claim 1, wherein W^1 is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-V$.

5   7.   The compound of claim 1, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent L groups.

8.   The compound of claim 7, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently $(CH_2)_nOH$, $(CH_2)_nCOOR^5$, or $(CH_2)_nCOOH$.
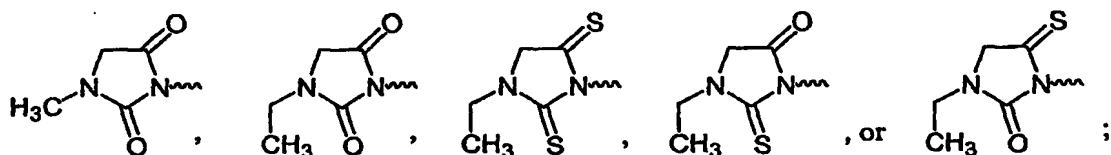
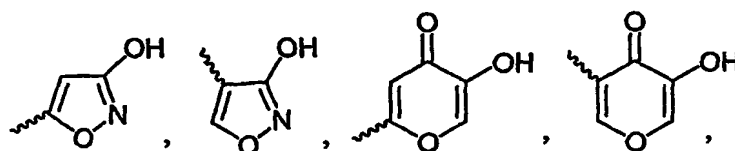9.   A compound of the formula Ia:
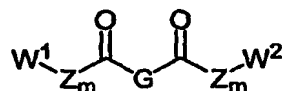
Ia

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

(a)   each occurrence of Z is independently CH_2 or $CH=CH$, wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;

(b)   G is $(CH_2)_x$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2$, or $CH=CH$, where x is 2, 3, or 4;

(c) W^1 and W^2 are independently L, V, or $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_c-V$, where c is 1 or 2;

(d)   each occurrence of R^1 and R^2 is independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $(C_2-C_6)alkenyl$, $(C_2-C_6)alkynyl$, phenyl, benzyl, or R^1 and R^2 and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a $(C_3-C_7)cycloakyl$ group;

(e)   L is $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_n-Y$, where n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

(f)   V is
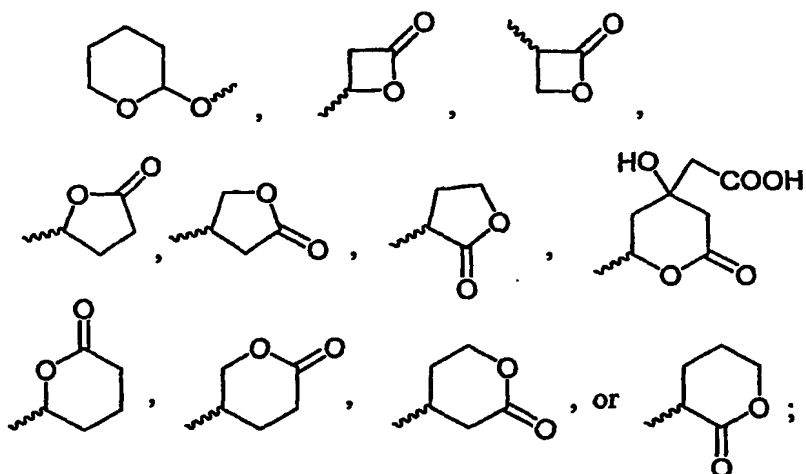
(g)   each occurrence of Y is independently (C_1-C_6)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $(CH_2)_nCOOR^3$, SO_3H,

where

(I) R^3 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
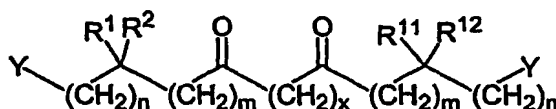
    (ii)   each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, $C_1\text{-}C_6$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

    (iii)   each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl; and

provided that:

    (i)   if x is 4, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 4, and W^1 is $-CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

    (ii)   if x is 4, each occurrence of Z is CH_2, each occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is $-C(phenyl)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1.

10.   The compound of claim 9, wherein W^1 is L.

11.   The compound of claim 9, wherein W^1 is V.

12.   The compound of claim 9, wherein W^1 is $C(R^1)(R^2)\text{--}(CH_2)_c\text{-}V$.

13.   The compound of claim 9, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent L groups.

14.   The compound of claim 13, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, $COOR^3$, or COOH.

15.   A compound of the formula Ib

Ib

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein:

(a)   each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;

(b)   x is 2, 3, or 4;

(c)   n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4;

(d)   each occurrence of R^1 and R^2 is independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or R^1 and R^2 and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloakyl group;

(e)   each occurrence of R^{11} and R^{12} is independently H, CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or R^{11} and R^{12} and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloakyl group;

(f)   each occurrence of Y is independently (C_1-C_6)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^3$, SO_3H,
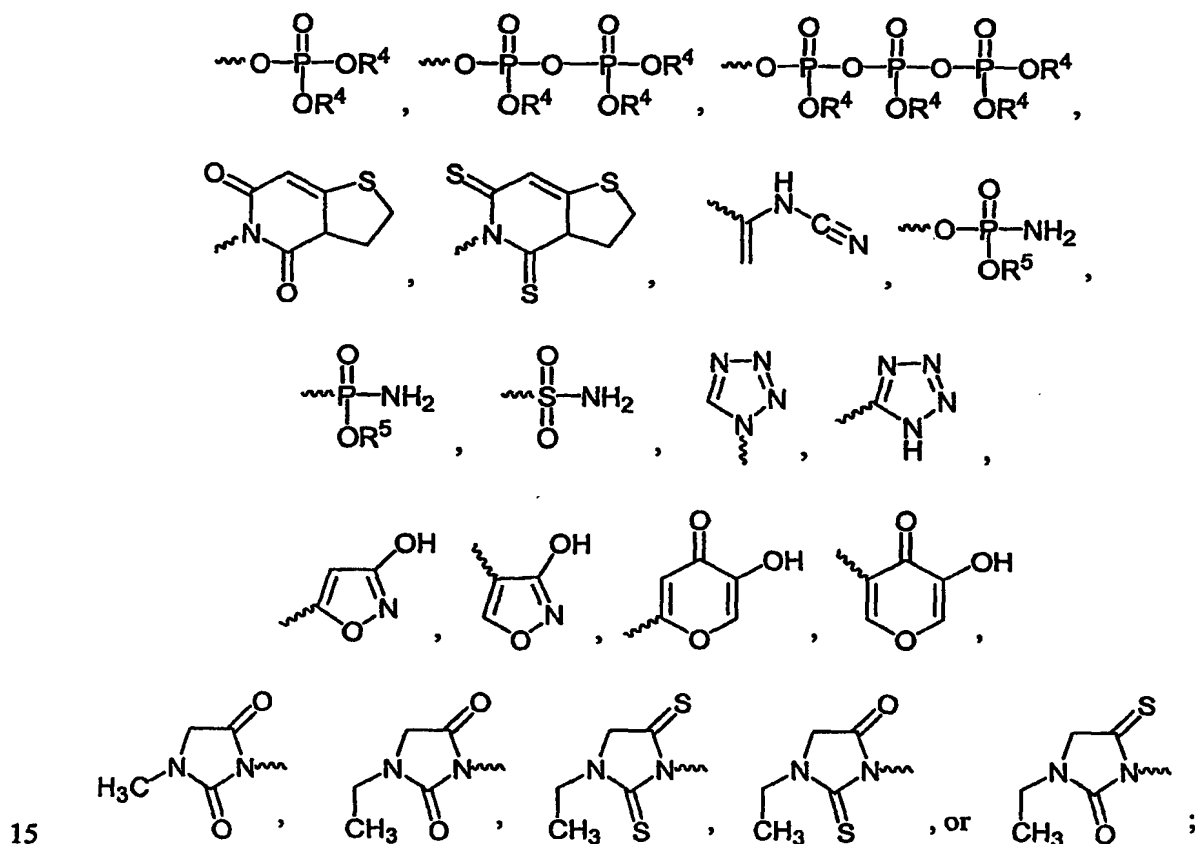
where

(i) R^3 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or

substituted with one or two halo, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and

(iii)   each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl;

5   provided that:

(i)   if x is 4 each occurrence of m is 4, and W^1 is -CH(CH$_3$)CO$_2$H, then W^2 is not the same as W^1;

(ii)   if x is 4 occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is -C(phenyl)$_2$CH$_2$CO$_2$H, then W^2 is not the same as W^1.

10   16.   The compound of claim 15, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, COOR^3, or COOH.

17.   The compound of claim 16, wherein each R^1 or R^2 is the same or different (C_1-C_6)alkyl group.

18.   A compound of the formula Ic

15

$$V \diagdown (CH_2)_m \diagdown \overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C} \diagdown (CH_2)_x \diagdown \overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C} \diagdown (CH_2)_m \diagup V$$

Ic

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein:

(a)   each occurrence of m is an independent integer ranging from 1 to 9;
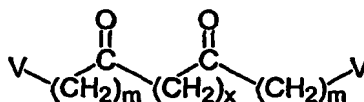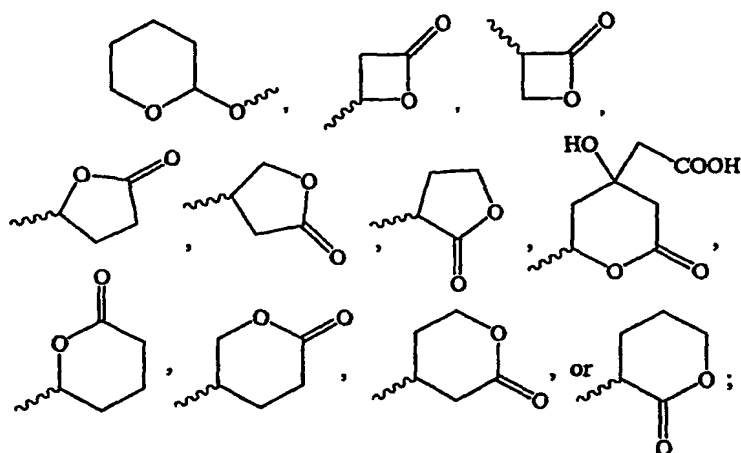
(b)   x is 2, 3, or 4;

20   (c)   V is

provided that:

(i)   if x is 4 each occurrence of m is 4, and W^1 is $-CH(CH_3)CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1; and

(ii)   if x is 4 each occurrence of m is 2, and W^1 is $-C(phenyl)_2CH_2CO_2H$, then W^2 is not the same as W^1.

19.   A compound according to claim 1, having the formula

5-[2-(5-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-pentyloxy)-ethoxy]-2,2-dimethyl-pentan-1-ol or

4-[3-(3,3-Dimethyl-4-oxo-butoxy)-propoxy]-2,2-dimethyl-butyric acid.

20.   A compound of the formula II:
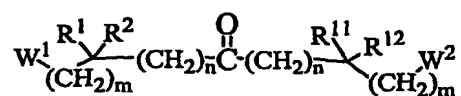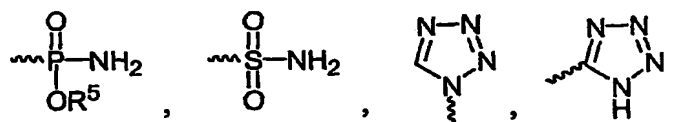

II

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

(a) R^1 and R^2 are independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl; or R^1, R^2, and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl group;

(b) R^{11} and R^{12} are independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl; or R^{11}, R^{12}, and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl group;

(c)   n is an integer ranging from 1 to 6;

(d)   each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 0 to 4;

- 311 -

(e)   W^1 and W^2 are independently (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, CH$_2$OH, C(O)OH, CHO, OC(O)R^3,
        C(O)OR^3, SO$_3$H,

where

(I)   R^3 is (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkenyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkynyl, phenyl, or
        benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more
        halo, OH, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_2$-
        C$_6$)alkenyl, or (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or

substituted with one or two halo, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or phenyl groups;

(iii)   each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl.
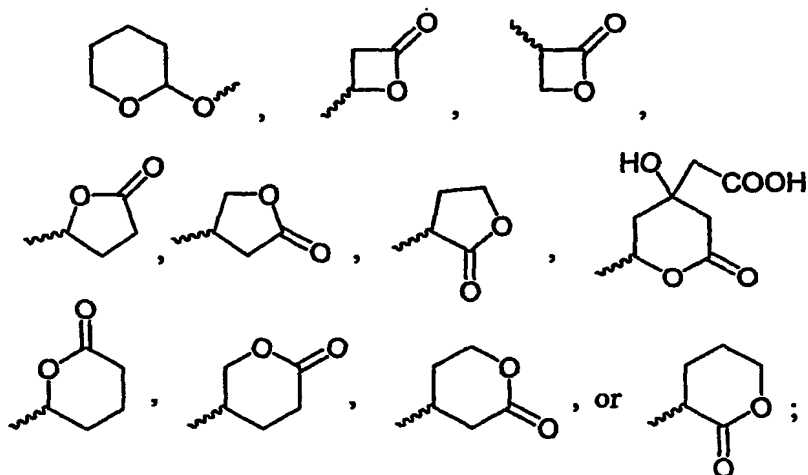
5   21.   A compound of formula IIa:

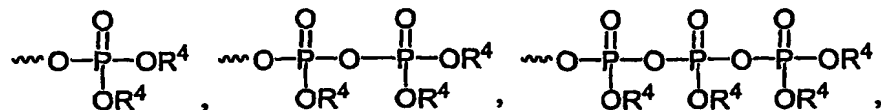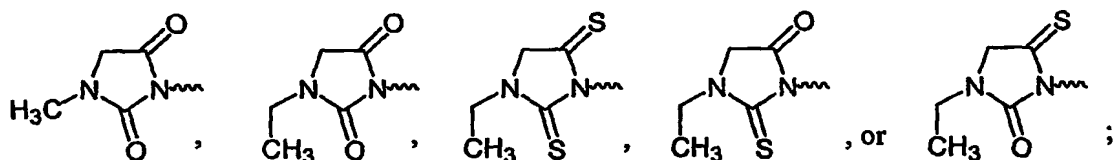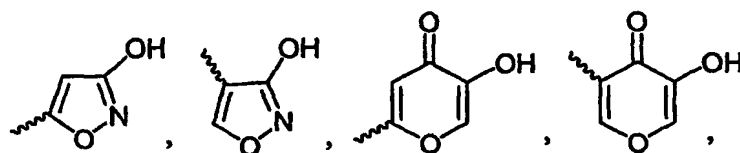**IIa**

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

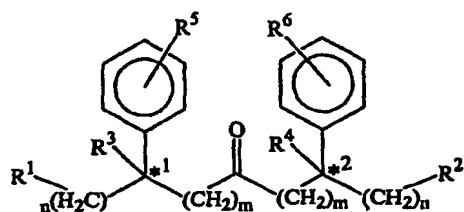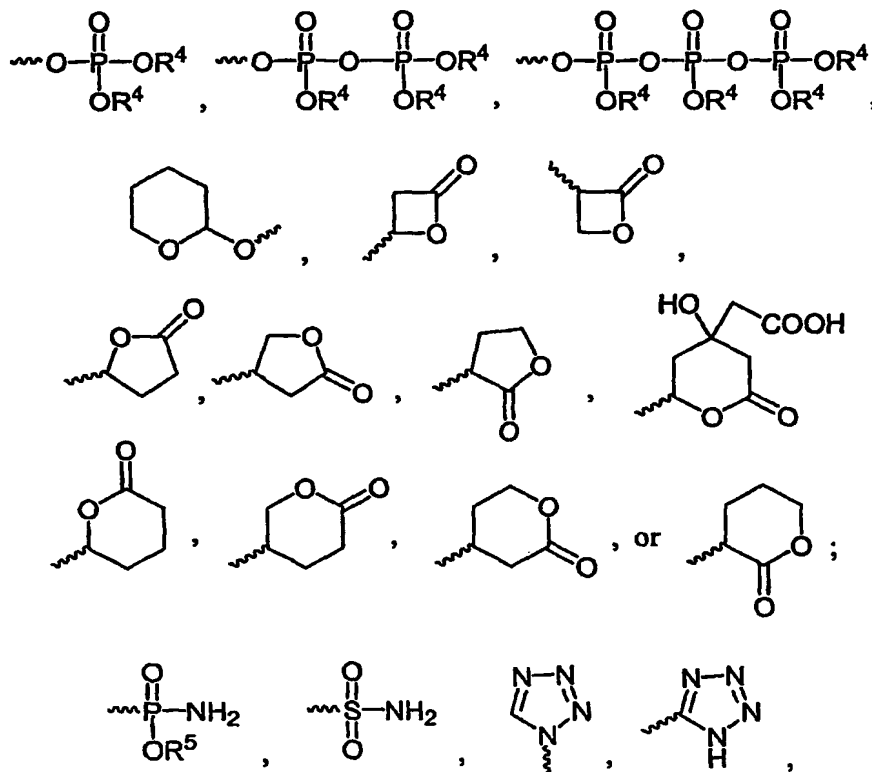(a) R^1 and R^2 are OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^7$, SO_3H,

10
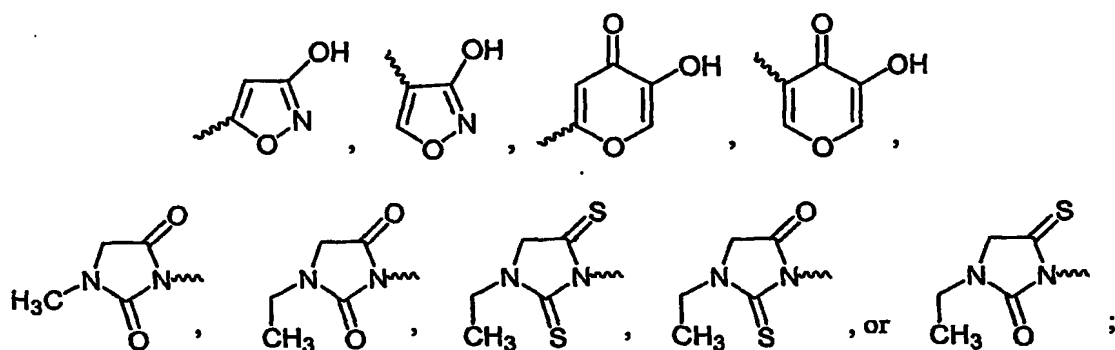
where

(I) R^7 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^8 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(iii) each occurrence of R^9 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl;

(b) R^3 and R^4 are CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl;

(c) R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen, halogen, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C6)aryloxy, CN, or NO_2, $N(R^5)_2$ where R^5 is H, (C_1-C_4) alkyl, phenyl, or benzyl;

(d)   each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 5;

(e)   each occurrence of n is independently an integer ranging from 0 to 4; and

(f) $*^1$ and $*^2$ represent independent chiral-carbon centers, wherein each center may independently be R or S.

22.   A compound as in claim 21 wherein $*^1$ is a chiral-carbon center of the stereochemical configuration R or substantially R.

23.   A compound as in claim 21 wherein $*^1$ is a chiral-center of the stereochemical configuration S or substantially S.

24.   A compound as in claim 21 wherein $*^2$ is a chiral-carbon center of the
stereochemical configuration R or substantially R.

25.   A compound as in claim 21 wherein $*^2$ is a chiral-center of the stereochemical
configuration S or substantially S.

5   26.   A compound of the formula III:
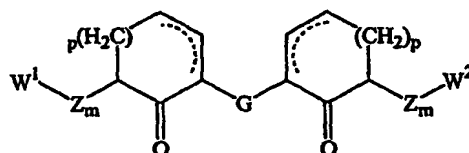
III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

(a)   each occurrence of Z is independently CH_2, CH=CH, or phenyl, where each
10   occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 5, but when Z is
                phenyl then its associated m is 1;

(b)   G is $(CH_2)_x$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2$, CH=CH, CH_2-phenyl-CH_2, or phenyl, where x is an
                integer ranging from 1 to 4;

(c) W^1 and W^2 are independently $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH_2)_n-Y$ where n is an integer ranging
15   from 0 to 4;

(d) R^1 and R^2 are independently CO_2H, $CO_2(C_1-C_6)$alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl,
                (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or R^1 and R^2 are both H, or R^1, R^1, and the carbon
                to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl
                group;

20   (e)   Y is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, $(CH_2)_nOH$, $(CH_2)_nCOOH$, $(CH_2)_nCHO$, $(CH_2)_nCOOR^3$, SO_3H,

where

(I) R^3 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or
        benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more
        halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or
        substituted with one or two halo, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or phenyl
        groups,

(iii)   each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, or $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl; and

(f)   each occurrence of p is independently 2 or 3 where the broken line represents an optional presence of one or more additional carbon-carbon bonds that when present complete one or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

27.   The compound of claim 26, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent $C(R^1)(R^2)\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}Y$ groups, where n is an independent integer ranging from 0 to 4, and each occurrence of Y is independently OH, $COOR^4$, or COOH.

28.   The compound of claim 26, wherein p is 0.

29.   The compound of claim 26, wherein p is 1.
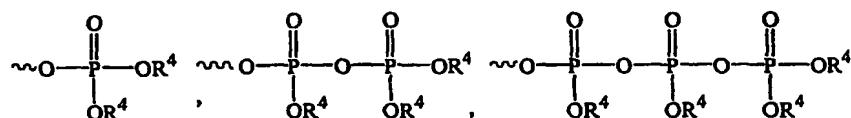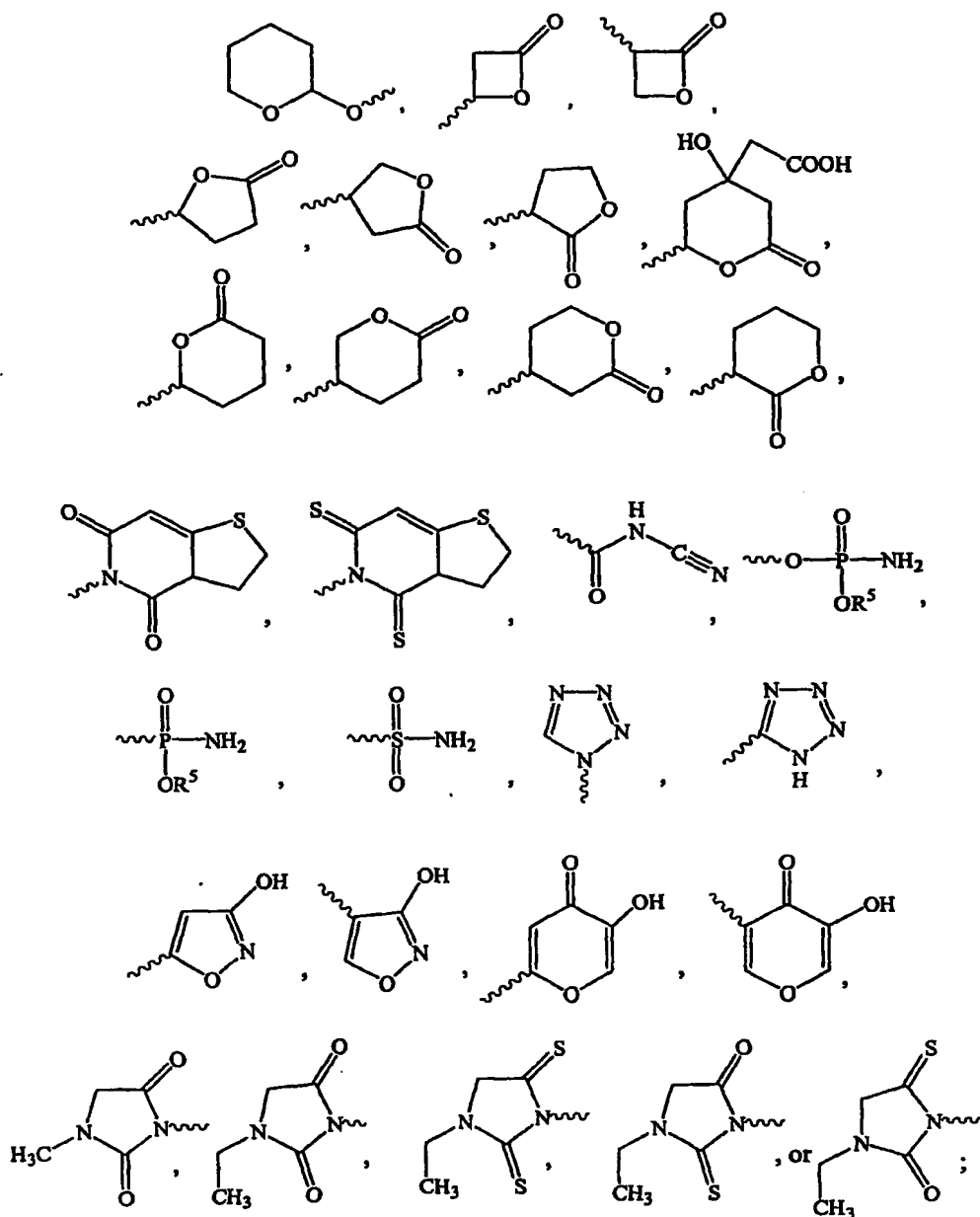
30.   A compound of the formula **IIIa**:

IIIa

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, clathrate thereof, wherein

(a)   each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 5;

(b)   x is an integer ranging from 1 to 4;

(c) W^1 and W^2 are independently $C(R^1)(R^2)\text{-}(CH_2)_n\text{-}Y$;

(d)   each occurrence of R^1 or R^2 is independently (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or R^1, R^1, and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl group;

(e)   Y is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, $COOR^3$, SO_3H,
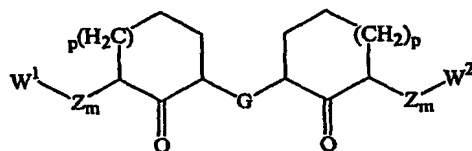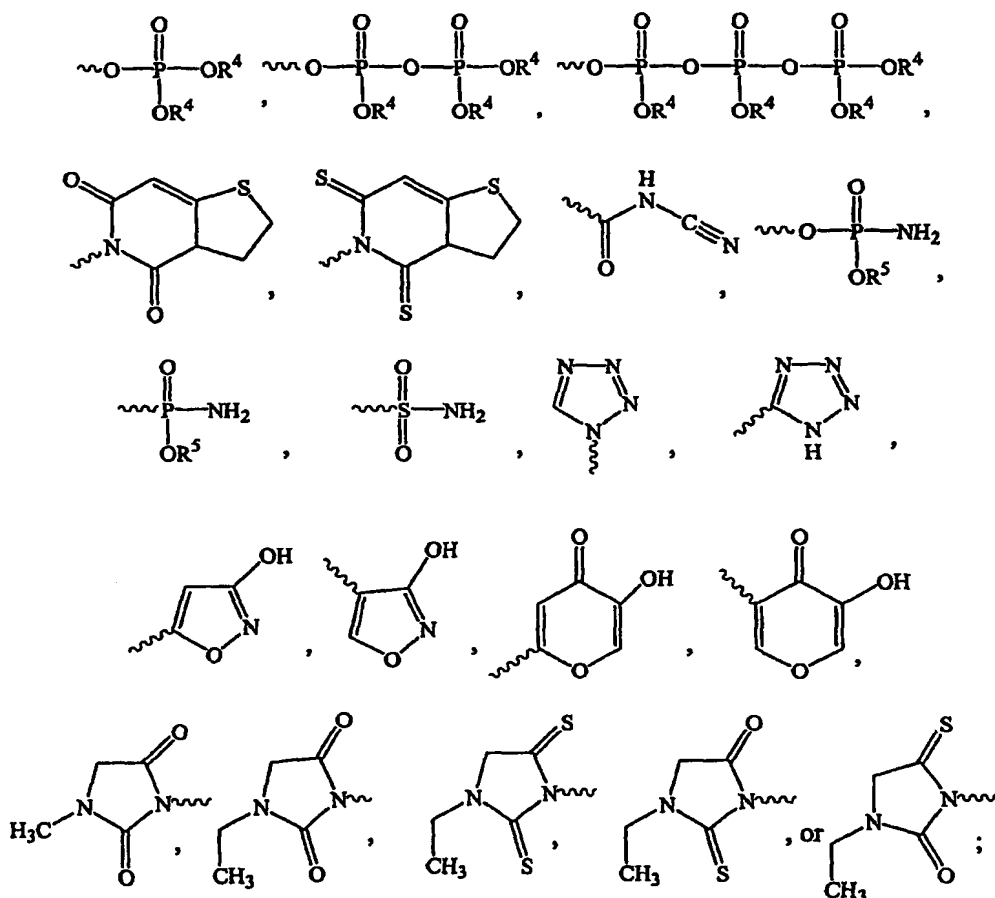

where

(I) R^3 is (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, or phenyl groups,

(ii)   each occurrence of R^4 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
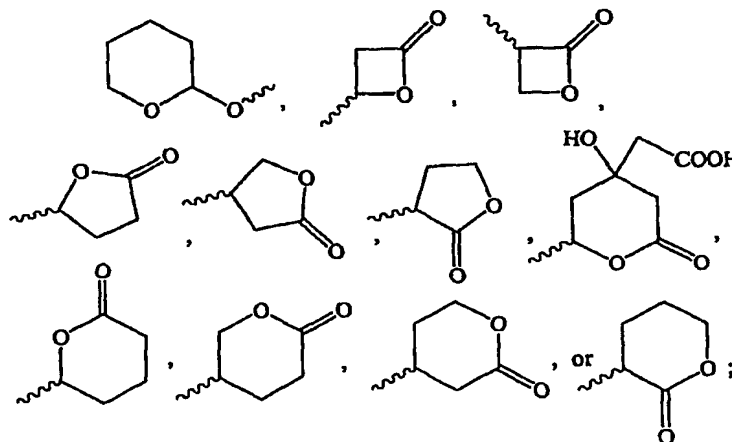
(iii)   each occurrence of R^5 is independently H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, or (C_2-C_6)alkynyl; and

(f)   each occurrence of p is independently 0 or 1.

31.   The compound of claim 30, wherein W^1 and W^2 are independent $C(R^1)(R^2)-(CH2)_n-$
Y groups, where n is an integer from 0 to 4, and each occurrence of Y is independently OH,
$COOR^3$, or COOH.

5   32.   The compound of claim 30, wherein p is 0.

33.   The compound of claim 30, wherein p is 1.

34.   A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21,
26, or 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

35.   A pharmaceutical composition comprising the following compound:
10   6-(5,5-Dimethyl-6-hydroxy-hexane-1-sulfinyl)-2,2-dimethyl-hexan-1-ol or
pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, clathrates, enantiomers, diasteriomers,
racemates, or mixtures of steroisomers thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle,
excipient, or diluent.

36.   A method for treating or preventing a cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising
15   administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective
amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

37.   A method for treating or preventing a dyslipidemia in a patient, comprising
administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective
amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

20   38.   A method for treating or preventing a dyslipoproteinemia in a patient, comprising
administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective
amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

39.   A method for treating or preventing a disorder of glucose metabolism in a patient,
comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a
25   therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

40.   A method for treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

41.   A method for treating or preventing Syndrome X or Metabolic Syndrome in a
5   patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

42.   A method for treating or preventing septicemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

10   43.   A method for treating or preventing a thrombotic disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

44.   A method for treating or preventing a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such
15   treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

45.   A method for treating or preventing obesity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

20   46.   A method for treating or preventing pancreatitis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

47.   A method for treating or preventing hypertension in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective
25   amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

48.   A method for treating or preventing renal disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

49.   A method for treating or preventing cancer in a patient, comprising administering to

5   a patient in claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

50.   A method for treating or preventing inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

51.   A method for treating or preventing impotence in a patient, comprising

10   administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

52.   A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18,

15   20, 21, 26, or 30.

53.   A method of inhibiting hepatic fatty acid synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

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54.   A method of inhibiting sterol synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

25   55.   A method of treating or preventing metabolic syndrome disorders in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

56.   A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by increasing HDL levels, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

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57.   A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by lowering LDL levels, which comprises administering to such patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26, or 30.

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